A Rehearfall both ſtraung and true, of hainous and horrible actes committed by Elizabeth Stile, Alias Rockingham, Mother Durten, Mother Deuell, Mother Margaret, Fower notorious Witches, apprehended at winſore in the Countie of Barkſ. and at Abbingſton arraigned, condemned, and executed, on the 26. daye of Februarie laſte Anno. 1579.

Imprinted at London for Edward White at the little North-doore of Paules, at the ſigne of the Gun, and are there to be ſold.

Roberti Hare

The Reader

AMong the punishementes which the Lorde GOD hath layed vppon vs, for the manifest impietie and carelesse contempt of his woorde, aboundyng in these our desperate dates, the swarmes of Witches, and Inchaunters, are not the laste nor the leaste. For that old Serpent Sathan, suffred to be the scourge for our sinnes, hath of late yeares, greately multiplyed the broude of them, and muche encreased their malice. Which practize, he hath the more easely performed for that wholesome remedies, provided for the curing of such can-

kers, are either neuer a whit, or not rightly applied: For albeit the Iusticer bee seuere in executyng of the Lawes in that behalfe, yet such is the foolishe pitie, or slackenes, or doth of the multitude and vnder officers that they most commonly are winked at, and so escape vnpunished, to the dishonour of God, and imminente daunger on her Maiesties leige people. Nay the fondnes and ignorance of many is such, that they succour those Deuilishe Impes, haue recourse to them for the health of themselues or others, and for thinges lost, callyng them by the honorable name of wise women. Wherin they know not what honour they doe to the deuill. For it is Sathan, that doeth all that plageth with sicknes, that mayneth,

Murdreth

Murdreth, and Robbeth, and at his lust restoreth. The Witche beareth the name, but the Deuill dispatcheth the deedes, without him the Witche can contriue no mischief. He without the Witche can worke treason to muche, to ofte, and to soone. If then by the lawe of the Lord of life, Witches, and Inchaunters, are accompted vnworthy to liue. If by the lawe of this Lande, they are to be done to death, as Traitors to their Prince, and felons in respect of her highnes subiectes, whosoeuer thou be, beware of ayding them, goe not with *Saule* the reprobate to aske coũsaile of them, neither for Christianitie sake, seeme to be more slack in a good purpose, then *Cicero* the Ethnique, who plainely aduiseth that Witches Poysoners .&c. are to be

rather shutte vp in prison; and tied with fetters, then moued to amende with counsaile, and perswasions, only afterwardes suffered to escape whereby thei may renew their malitious, and treasonable diffetes.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Ianuary the 28. daie.

The true examination and *Confession of Elizabeth Stile, alias* Rockyngham vttered at the Gaile *of Readyng, in the Countie of Barke, im-* mediately after hir apprehenſion *in the preſence of the per-* ſons heraftey men- tioned.

ELiazbeth Stile *ali.* Rockingham, late of Windeſore widowe, of the age of lxx. yeres, or there aboute beeyng apprehended at Windſore afore ſaid, and brought perſonally before the right worſhipfull Sir Henry Neuell knight beyng by him examined, and found by manifeſt and vndeniable proffes of her honeſt neighbors to be a leude, malitious, and hurtfull woman to the people and inhabitants thereaboutes, was thereupon committed to the common Gaile of Reading, there to remain vntill the next great

Assises, there to bee holden that hir offence might be more straightly sifted, and she the offender to receiue the guerdon due for hir demerites. Whither when she was come, and moued by the Gailer there named Thomas Rowe to turne hir selfe to God, from whome she had notoriously fallen, and mildely to beare the punishmente belonging to hir deedes passed, and therewithall vrged in signe of hir repentaunce, to confesse hir former follies and facts, she seemed to haue some remorse in conscience, and desired to haue some talke with the saied Thomas Rowe. To whome with one Iohn knight the Counstable Ihon Griffeth an Inholder, and one William Printall being all former presente she confessed as followeth.

¶ And firste concernyng those persones that practice the damnable arte of Witchecrafte, Sorcerie, or Inchauntement of her owne certaine knowledge, and voluntare motion, she vttered to this effect ensuyng.

IN Primis that one father Rosimonde, dwellyng in Farneham Parishe, beyng a widower, and also a daughter of his, are both Witches or Inchanters, which Rosimõd she saith hath and can transforme hymselfe by Diuelishe meanes, into the shape and likenesse of any beaste whatsoeuer he will.

2 Item, that one Mother Dutten dwellyng

within one Hoskins in Clewoythe Parishe, can tell euery ones message, assone as she seeth them approche nere to the place of hir abyoade, and further, she keepeth a Spirite or Feende in the likenesse of a Toade, and feedeth thesame Feende liyng in a boyder of greene Hearbes, within her Garden, with blood whiche she causeth to issue from her owne flancke.

3 Item, that one Mother Devell, dwellyng nigh the Ponde in Windesoye aforesaied, beeyng a verie poore woman, hath a Spirite in the shape of a Blacke Catte, and calleth it Gille, whereby she is aided in her Witchcrafte, and she daiely feedeth it with Milke, mingled with her owne bloud.

4 Item

4 Item, that one Mother Margaret dwel-
lyng in the Alms house at Windesore, goeth
with twoo Crouches, dooeth feede a Kitlyng
or Feende by her named Gimmie, with croum-
mes of bread and her owne blood.

5 Item, the saied Elizabeth Stile, alias
Rockyngham, of her self confesseth that she the
same Elizabeth, vntill the tyme of her appre-
hension, kepte a Ratte, beeyng in very deede a

wicked Spirite, namyng it Philip, and that
she feede the same Ratte with bloode, issuyng
from her right hand wrest, the markes where-
of euidently remaine, and also that she graue her
right sloe to the Deuill, and so did the residue
of the Witches before named.

And

¶ And thus farforthe touchyng the perſones afore mentioned in generall, now reſteth her declaration of their deteſtable deuiſes, and deuiſes in particuler.

6 Furthermoze, ſhe confeſſeth that when ſhe was appzehended, Mother Margaret came to her and gaue her money, chargyng her in any wiſe not to detecte their ſecretes, whiche if ſhe this pziſoner did, the ſaied Mother Margarete threatened that ſhe ſhould be hardly entreated.

7 And mozeouer, ſhe ſaieth that Father Roſimõd, with his daughter, mother Dutten, mother Deuell, Mother Margaret, and her ſelf the ſaid Elizabeth Rockingham, did accuſtome to meete within the backeſide of Maiſter Dodges in the Pittes there, and did in that place conclude vpon hainous, and vilanous pzactiſes, ſuche as by them, oz any of them befoze had bin deuiſed, oz determined.

8 Alſo ſhe ſaieth, and confeſſeth that thei all purpoſed and agreed, by their Sozceries, and Inchauntementes, to diſpatche pziuilie one Lanckfozde a Fermour, dwellyng in Eſtindefoze by the Thames ſide, and that they murde-

red

redhym accordingly.

9 They also by their deuilishe arte, killed one Maister Gallis, who in times paste, had been Maior of Alnedsore.

10 The like they practized againste one of the saied Lanckfordes maides, whom by the mischeuous meanes aboue expressed they bereft of life.

11 Likewise a Butcher named Switcher, escaped not their treacherie, but was by their Witcherafte brought to his graue.

12 Another Butcher named Maskyn, was by them handeled in sliche sorte, that he consumed awaie.

13 The maner of their Inchauntemente, whereby fower of the persones afore named were murdered was thus: Mother Dutten made fower pictures of Redde Waxe, about a spanne long, and three or fower fingers broade for Lanckforde, for his Maide, for Maister Gallis, and for Switcher, and the saied Mother Dutten, by their counsaile and consente,

dis

did sticke an Hauthorne pricke, against the left sides of the breastes of the Images, directly there where thei thought the hartes of the persones to bee sette, whom the same pictures did represente, and thereupon within shorte space, the saied fower persones, beeyng sodainely taken, died.

14 As for Wastlyn the fifte man, she confesseth that he was bewitched, but howe or whether he dyed or no she vttreth not.

15 Further the same Elizabeth saieth, that her self did kill one Saddocke with a clappe on the shoulder, for not keepyng his promisse for an old Cloke, to make her a Saffegarde, who presently wente home and died.

16 Further she saieth, that she and euery of them, did ouer speake one Humfrey Hoose and his wife, and one Richarde Willes, and one Jhon Wathyngtile, that thei laye sicke in a straunge order a long tyme, but thei were recouered againe.

17 Further she saieth, that mother Deuell did ouer speake one William Foster a Fi-

sher,

ther, and one Willies wife a Baker.

18 Further she saieth, that mother Dutten did giue one Picture, but she knoweth not whether it was of a manne, or of a woman, and the man that had it of her, she thinketh to be deade, but she knoweth not his name.

19 Further she saieth, that one George Wolfrying, seruaunte to Matthewe Glouer of Eaton, had one Picture of her self for one Foster, for that she saied George and Foster fell out at variaunce, and the Picture was made in mother Dottens house, and that mother Dutten, Mother Deuell, and her self were at the makyng, and that Mother Deuell did saie too her Dunne, or euill Spirite, Plague hym, and spare hym not, and she did thrust a Hauthorne pricke against the harte of hym, and so he laye at the point of death a long tyme, but Mother Dutten recouered hym againe.

20 And in the ende, thei killed a Cowe of his by their Witchcrafte.

21 And further she saieth, that thei and euery of them, if any had angred them, thei would go

to

to their Spirites and saie, suche a one hath angred me, goe doo̅e them this mischief, and for their hire, would giue them a droppe of their owne blood, and presently the partie was plagued by some lamentable casualtie.

22 Elizabeth Stile also confesseth, that she her selfe hath goone to old Windsor, to the dedde makers there, to begge a messe of Milke, whiche she could not haue, for that the maide was then Milkyng, but her Ratte had prouided for her bothe Milke and Creame, against her comming home.

23 Elizabeth Stile touched with more remorse saieth, that Mother Dutten, & Mother Deuell, were her firste intisers to follie, and that she and euery of them, did meete sometymes in maister Dodges Pittes, and sometyme aboute a leuen of the Clocke in the night at the Pounde, and that Mother Dutten, and Mother Deuell did perswade her, to doo̅e as they had doen, in forsakyng God and his woorkes, and giuyng her selfe to the Deuill.

24 Elizabeth Stile confesseth, her selfe oftentymes to haue gon to Father Rosins house

where she founde hym sittyng in a Wood, not farre from thence, vnder the bodie of a Tree, sometymes in the shape of an Ape, and otherwhiles like an Horse. She also confesseth her self to haue tourned a childes hande in Windsor cleane backwardes, whiche was retourned to the right place by Mother Dutten.

25 Further she saieth, that she will stande vnto her death, to all and euery Article before rehearsed: and that father Rosimond can transforme hym self into the likenesse of an Ape, or a Horse, and that he can helpe any manne so bewitched to his health againe, as well as to bewitche.

26 Further she saieth, that mother Seime dwelling in the Almes house, was the maistres Witche of all the reste, and she is now deade.

27 Further she saieth, that if she had bin so disposed, fower or fiue, or more of the best men in Windsor, should not haue brought her to the Gaile, but that she came of her owne accorde, and by the waie as she came with Iho̅ Bryome who brought her to the Gaile, her Bunne or Familier came to her in the likenesse of a black

Catte, and would haue had her awaie, but she banished hym, hopyng for fauour.

Memorandum, that besides the examination, and confession aforesaid, there was giuen in euidence, *viua voce*, at the Arraignement of thesaid Witches, one speciall matter by an Ostler of Windsore, who affirmed vpon his othe that thesaid Mother Stile vsing to come to his Maisters house, had often tymes relefe giuen her by hym. And on a time not long sithens, she commyng to his Maisters house, when there was little left to be giuen her, for that she came somewhat late, yet he giuyng her also somewhat at that tyme, she therewith not contented went her waies in some anger, and as it semed offended with the saied Ostler, for that she had no better Almes, and by the sequell, so it appered. For not long after, he had a greate ache in his limmes, that he was not able to take any reste, nor to doe any labour, and hauyng sought many meanes for remedie thereof, could finde none, at the laste he wente to a Wiseman, named Father Rosimonde, alias Osborne, who told hym that he was bewitched, and that there was many ill women in Windsore, and asked hym whom he did mistrust, and the saied Ostеler answered one Mother Stile, one of the

Witches

Witches aforesaied: well saied the Wiseman, if you can meete her, and all to scratche her, so that you drawe blood of her, you shall presently mende. And the saied Ostler upon his othe declared, that he watchyng her on a tyme, did all too scratche her by the face, that he made the blood come after, & presently his paine went awaie, so that he hath bin no more greued sithēs.

Moreouer, on a tyme a mannes Soonne of Windsor, commyng to fetche water at a welle whiche was by the doore of the saied Mother Stile, and by chaunce hurlyng a stone vppon her house, she was therewithall muche greeued and saied, she would bee euen with hym, and tooke his Pitcher whiche he had brought from hym: the boye goyng homewardes, happened to meete with his father, and tolde hym how that Mother Stile had taken awaye his Pitcher from hym, well saied his Father, you haue doen her some vnhappines, come on with me, and I will goe speake with her. And so the boye goyng with his Father towardes her house, did sodainly crie out: *O my hande my hande*, his father therewithall lookyng backe, and seeyng his Soonnes hande to tourne, and wende backwardes, laied holde therevpon, but he was not able to staye the tournyng thereof,

beſides a neighbour of his beeyng in his companie at that tyme, did alſo laye holde thereon, and notwithſtandyng bothe their ſtrengthes, the childes hande did tourne backewardes, and the palme thereof did ſtande, where the backe did, to the greeuous torment of the ſaied childe, and veration of his Father: The whiche hande was tourned againe to his right place, either by the ſaied father Roſimond, or the ſaied Mother Deuell.

Alſo this is not to be forgotten, that the ſaid Mother Stile, beeyng at the tyme of her apprehenſion, ſo well in healthe of bodie and limmes, that ſhe was able, and did goe on foote, from Windſor vnto Readyng vnto the Gaile, whiche are twelue miles diſtaunt. Shortly after that ſhe had made the aforeſaied confeſſion, the other Witches were apprehended, and were brought to the ſaid Gaile, the ſaid Mother Deuell did ſo bewitche her and others (as ſhe confeſſed vnto the Jailer) with her Enchauntmentes, that the vſe of all her limmes and ſenſes, were taken quite from her, and her Toes did rotte of her feete, and ſhe was laied vppon a Barrowe, as a moſte vglie creature to beholde, and ſo brought before the Judges, at ſuche tyme as ſhe was arraigned.

Finis.

BRITISH MUSEUM